

???

By Jack O. Baldwin



How-embarrassing-can-life-be? Last Thursday evening at the press preview of the new G. P. Building I was standing with and talking to a man named R. L. Minckler when up walks a gentleman from the L. A. Mirror. He offers his hand, peeks at my identification on my lapel, says "Howdy" and turns to repeat the process with Mr. Minckler.

"How do you do, Mr. Minckler? My Name is..... I see you are with G. P. What department are you in?"

Now Mr. Minckler is a very courteous gentleman and replies light heartedly, "Well, I'm not in any department, exactly."

"Oh, I see," says our Mr. X. "What do you do with the company?"

"My job takes in quite a few tasks," was Mr. Minckler's reply.

I could see where this line of questioning might lead to ah, a... "situation," shall we say. But trying to interrupt the gentleman was impossible.

"I understand sir. What I am trying to find out sir, is just what is your title with the company," Mr. X pressed.

This last question I fear pinned Mr. Minckler to the wall where he gently and very kiddily had to reply:

"I am the president of General Petroleum."

The B. T. "Red" Whitneys, the local loan people, are infamously in August.

Whenever I have occasion to stand in line at a bank window I have the feeling that I am standing in judgment and reaping the punishment for a string of boyhood crimes. Otherwise why is it that no matter which line I choose I always pick the slowest moving line. It seems that invariably just as I am about to step up to the teller's window with possibly nothing more entangling than making a deposit, the guy ahead of me has brought his month's business with him. People who have joined the lines to the left and right of the one in which I am standing and who have come in after I did, have long gone. I have even traded lines only to have the teller say, "Next line, please. I am closing for the lunch hour."

I think Mr. Sears and Mr. Post might take a hint from the theater managers and give everybody a number for the next pair of loges, or in this case the next available window. Barbers also have used this system for years.

Members of the Saturday Afternoon Club (that's a group of men who have to work on Saturday afternoon and meet at Vurp's each Saturday about 1 p.m. to discuss ways and means of putting across a plan where they wouldn't have to work on Saturday afternoon) will be dismayed by the fact that Sheila (she's Torrance's own Jane Russell) has left Vurp's to go to a spot on the ocean front to hustle highballs. Sheila, among her other accomplishments is somewhat of a feminine "Nature Boy." There is possibly no greater authority in this area on wolves than Sheila.

Hit-and-Run

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of the Herald Building, a car stopped in front of Editor Baldwin's home at 2294 Dominguez. According to Baldwin someone started to get out of the car but stepped back in and quickly drove away as he came to the door to investigate. Because of the darkness he was not able to recognize the car nor ascertain its color.

A charge by Whyte and Brown that nails and razor blades had been found under the tires of cars belonging to regular employees of the Herald as well as finding lights and radios turned on in an attempt to run down batteries, was a partial basis for the injunction issued last Wednesday.

In his detailed account to Detective-Sergeant Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Department, Whyte said:

"I was getting out of my car which was parked across from the Herald Building, and had started across the street. I noticed a car coming from the intersection of Cravens and Gramercy avenue at a great rate of speed. I stepped back toward the car—still holding the door. As I stepped back the approaching car followed me, the driver gunning the motor in low gear. I didn't have time to get back into the car so I pulled the door as close to me as I could—my legs between the door and the running board. About 20 feet away the driver blasted on his

horn and headed directly at me. His front bumper and fender struck the open edge of the door of my car with sufficient force to crumple up the heavy metal door like a slip of paper.

"The car sped away, through a stop sign, and headed south on Cabrillo avenue. It all happened so fast and I was so startled that I did not have time to see the license number or anything else other than the color of the car."

Mrs. Whyte, who was in the car at the time described the hit-and-run vehicle as being a blue coupe, about a 1940 or 1941 model—possibly a Ford.

It was first believed by police and those close to the accident picture that the accident was the result of a drunk driver. This theory was challenged, however, by reports from neighbors of Whyte's who recently reported seeing a car answering the description of the assault vehicle "casing" Whyte's home at 1620 Post avenue.

More than little significance was placed on the horn-blowing incident. Officers and witnesses pondered:

1. If the driver of the car was drunk, he was not too drunk or he would not have thought of blowing his horn. If he was not that drunk his reaction time would have been such that he could have avoided the accident.
2. If the attack was premeditated, the horn blowing might have been planned as a possible alibi that the driver attempted to avoid hitting Whyte, blew his horn, but that the victim "stepped right in front of me."
3. The horn-blowing might have been a war-cry, a "Geronimo"—a "Banzai," at the moment of attack.

Police were also attempting to discover why motion pictures were made of Whyte, Brown, and other persons in key positions at the Herald. A member of the picket line has repeatedly photographed members of the staff leaving the newspaper building. Several times pictures were taken of Whyte and Brown entering their autos.

Publisher Whyte expressed the opinion that the picture-taking and the crash incident were both an attempt to coerce him into releasing five printers who quit their \$85-\$94 a week jobs last February or an attempt to "scare" him into relaxing the newspaper's editorial campaigns against the management of the local retail clerks union.

Whyte stated that he had no intention of doing either.



1 FOUND ONE! . . . Shouts seven-year-old Sally Jones, a pupil in Mrs. S. H. Freeman's class, as she discovers an egg with her name on it that the Easter Bunny left during an egg hunt at Torrance Elementary School last Friday. Several hundred children participated in the hunt.—Herald Photo.

Columbia Plant Toured by U.S. Steel Executive

M. H. Reed, chief engineer of United States Steel Corporation, made a routine inspection tour of the Torrance plant of Columbia Steel last Monday and noted the progress being made on the re-conversion of the former Alcoa plant into a sheet steel mill.

He was accompanied on his tour of the local plant by O. A. Kresse, general superintendent of the Torrance plant.

Carl S. Warner, superintendent of construction, for Columbia and the superintendent of the job of re-converting the war-time plant, conducted the tour of the Alcoa site.

Reed is touring U.S. Steel's subsidiaries in Southern California, San Francisco, and will tour the northwest and Geneva plants before returning east, a company spokesman said.

Among those who made the tour of the Torrance plant were: Alden G. Raech, president of Columbia; F. B. DeLong, vice-president of sales; Paul Kohlhaas, vice-president of engineering; Thomas Asby, general attorney; O. L. Pringle, vice-president of operations; and H. S. Worthington, assistant vice-president of operations.

The 4th Annual Southern California Sportsmen's Vacation and Trailer Show, bigger and better than any of its predecessors, will take place at Gilmore Stadium in Hollywood, today through April 24th.

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Act to Halt Tragic Kathy Re-occurrence

Immediate action to prevent any further tragedies such as the of little Kathy Fiscus was taken by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

On motion of Raymond V. Darby, the Supervisors instructed that an ordinance be prepared requiring capping of oil and water wells in an unincorporated territory.

Darby also presented a resolution that scrolls of commendation be presented to those firms and individuals who contributed to the task of freeing Kathy from her San Marino death chamber.

The Supervisors adopted the resolution in the hope that the unnecessary death of little Kathy will not have been completely in vain.

PVC LUNCHEON
The regular monthly luncheon of the Social Committee of the College Advisory Council was held Thursday noon in the dining room of Palos Verdes College, chairman Mrs. M. T. Davis presided. Mr. John Howard of the faculty spoke on the guidance program of the College after which the guests were taken on a tour of the campus.

Hospital Cases

- Mrs. Gladys Downing, 2308 Andree avenue.
- Mrs. Josephine Fashbaugh, 23608 Lucille street.
- Donald Nomaek, 17008 Falda avenue.
- Raymond Taylor, 26246 Eshehman avenue.
- Stephen Wong, 18790 S. Arlington avenue.

DON'T GAMBLE
Don't gamble on the curves. It is better to enter them at a safe pace and accelerate while rounding them than to enter them at a rapid pace and have to brake to avoid disaster.

Three Hurt at 255th and Oak

Lomita's 255th and Oak street intersection claimed a couple of more cars as victims last Saturday morning.

Three persons received minor injuries about 8:05 a.m. in an accident involving autos driven by Earl L. Williams, 38, 2461 W. 250th street, and Evelyn Capley, 26, of Los Angeles, deputies reported.

Listed as injured were Stella Williams, 41, possible fractured collarbone; Dorothy Stine, 19, 2461 W. 250th street, scalp laceration; and Jeannine Nitze, 19, 25008 Oak street, shock.

Deputies Donald P. Ewden and William O. Grater of Sheriff's car 33 investigated.

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BEST IN ADVICE . . . Joseph Scott, 81-year-old lawyer and civic leader passes on a bit of advice to James M. Nicolson, legal counselor for the Harbor Area Employee's Council. The chat took place last Thursday night at a meeting of the council. Both men were speakers.—Herald Photo.

Rippy Resigns From Commission

Stating he was not able to devote his best efforts to the job because of conflicting schedules, C. T. Rippy, past president of the Chamber of Commerce, tendered his resignation as a member of the planning commission Tuesday night.

His resignation was accepted with regret by the city council. City Manager George Stevens was directed to offer a letter of thanks to Rippy for his services.

A LITTLE
Traffic deaths dropped one percent in 1948, reaching a total of 32,200 as compared with 32,500 in 1947.

Carr

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a doubt in his (Carr's) mind that Lubin was the man who attacked him.
Carr is said to have remarked that regardless of Lubin's past deeds they should have no bearing on the San Pedro incident. He told police that he was anxious to cooperate with them in any way.

SOUTH DAKOTA PICNIC
The South Dakota State Society of Long Beach, California will sponsor their Annual Spring Picnic at Bixby Park in Long Beach, on Sunday, April 24th. There will be a musical program and other entertainment, according to Elizabeth Coleman, secretary.

EXTRA **WITH THE NEW HOTPOINT REFRIGERATOR for 1949**

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"TELEVISION FACTS"

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU ARE BUYING OR OWN A TELEVISION SET

By Phil Gibson

It was a sad, heartbreaking thing . . . but a thing more real and vividly understood by thousands and thousands who were eye-witnesses to the super-human struggle to save the life of little Kathy Fiscus.

KTTV's mobile unit transmitted on the spot almost continuously from 6 p.m. Saturday until 9 p.m. Sunday.

Tens of thousands of Southland residents sat transfixed beside their receivers as the drama unfolded. Neighbors crowded alongside.

Lines of spectators were 15 deep at our store windows where five television sets were operating continuously.

The acid test of news coverage by television was a parallel of radio's first big test—the entombment of Floyd Collins in a Kentucky cave tragedy in 1925.

KTTV crews were headed by Stuart Phelps, special events director, and Joe Conn, technical supervisor, in Operation Rescue at San Marino.

Three cameras supervised by Engineers Chuck January, Ted Hurley and Dick Bowen pictured every angle of the tense vigil.

High points included the arc-welding of the big rescue casing, the sound of water splashing in the tube, the sound of workmen's voices almost 100 feet underground, the eerie whir of the drill as it cut into the iron pipe which trapped Kathy Fiscus, Consulting Engineer Raymond Hill's terse comment at 7:20 p.m. Sunday when asked if Kathy were still alive ("I don't know") and the final tragic announcement by Dr. Robert McCulloch that the little girl was dead.

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